(c) the action proposed to be taken against the officers responsible for compromising the safety of its commanders and for causing financial loss to the State?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Procurement of 200 Bullet Proof Vehicles was made in July, 2005 based on technical specifications formulated by the Army in the year 2000. Army decided to procure a "in-service" vehicle with bullet-proofing to save time in induction of a new vehicle platform and save precious lives. During the exploitation of the above vehicles, certain defects were noticed, namely, (a) lack of adequate pulling power in mountains, (b) low ground clearance, (c) large turning radius, (d) overheating of tyres and (e) manual adjustment of rear view mirror by lowering the bullet proof window glass. The Comptroller and Auditor General in Para 2.1 of their Report No. CA 4 of 2008 (Defence Services) have, *inter alia*, also pointed out the above defects in these vehicles.

In so far as the level of protection provided by the vehicles is concerned, the Army has found it quite adequate and it continues to deploy these vehicles in Northern and Eastern Commands, despite lower pulling power. The protection accorded to troops travelling in these vehicles has proved to be foolproof against terrorists' small arms fire.

While preparing Action Taken Note on the aforesaid para of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General, which is at present under process, all relevant issues including the necessity for fixing responsibility will be kept in view.

Incidents of maltreatment in military hospitals

†1742. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of maltreatment have increased in military hospitals during the last few months;

(b) the number of cases investigated during the last year; and

(c) the number of the people against whom action has been taken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) There has been no increase in the incidents of maltreatment in military hospitals during the last few months. The number of cases investigated during the last year *i.e.* 1st December, 2007 to 30th November, 2008 are follows:—

Month	
December, 2007	04
January, 2008	03
February, 2008	03
March, 2008	01

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Month	
April, 2008	Nil
May, 2008	05
June, 2008	01
July, 2008	Nil
August, 2008	02
September, 2008	01
October, 2008	Nil
November, 2008	Nil

Action has been taken against 5 hospital personnel.

Safe guarding of India's coastline

1743. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present arrangements between Indian Navy, Coast Guard and the local police to guard and monitor the coastline so as to prevent illegal entry through sea;

(b) whether there is any proposal to review this arrangement to make it foolproof, in the wake of reported recent entry of terrorists through sea which caused terrorist attacks in Mumbai in November, 2008; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when its implementation is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) India's coastal waters are guarded by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Indian Navy (IN) in coordination with the State Police and other agencies like Customs. In the areas of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu schemes have been implemented for coastal security by the Navy and Coast Guard in association with the concerned State agencies.

(b) and (c) It has been decided to entrust guarding of coastline to the Coast Guard with immediate effect. The Indian Navy will provide the necessary backup support to the Coast Guard for this purpose. The Ministry of Shipping would provide all logistical assistance that may be required to the Coast Guard and the Navy.

Atrocities against women working with Cantonment Boards

1744. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women employees working with the Cantonment Boards in the country;

(b) whether all the Cantonment Boards are following the direction of the Supreme Court of India pertaining to atrocities against working women and sexual harassment at work place;